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THE NEWSPAPER PICTURE

By Charles V. Stanton

Elsewhere on this page today we present a letter from Mr. B. Ames of Roseburg.

Mr. Ames is a frequent contributor to our forum. We have not had the pleasure of meeting him personally, but his alertness of mind and his interest in current events, as indicated by his letters, belie his age, which he reports to be more than 80 years. He is youthful in views and opinions. We do not always agree with his philosophies. Particularly do we disagree with some of the arguments presented in the letter received from him today. Yet he reflects the thinking of a great number of people; thinking based on a lack of understanding of modern problems, procedures and conditions.

Because this is National Newspaper Week, and because Mr. Ames' letter is so well suited to the observance of the week, we are giving it special attention by discussing it in this column.

He states in his introduction that "It cannot be denied that the press of the United States is dominated and controlled" by the Republican party.

It certainly can be denied. We do deny it.

True, a majority of the press is supporting the Republican cause editorially. That situation exists, not because of any pressure or force, but because so many editors sincerely believe it is time for a change. The public has a short memory. If people will search back in their minds they will recall that a large segment of the press supported the Democratic party in 1932, feeling that the Republicans had been too long in power.

Press More Independent

Actually, the American press today is more independent than ever before. Because it is independent, not bound to either party, it is free to change with circumstances and conditions.

Mr. Ames points out that in the good old days nearly every town had two newspapers—one Republican, one Democrat. Those newspapers couldn't change. They were supported by the parties. The test of a publisher's ability was whether he could keep his newspaper alive from one election to the next. There was no independence. Either the editor gave endorsement to the party, or the financial support on which his paper depended was withdrawn.

Some of us greybeards in the newspaper business can join with Mr. Ames in mourning the passing newspaper rivalry, partisanship and personalized editorials, but, contrary to his statement, people had less access to information and varied opinion in those days than at present.

Facilities for newsgathering were limited. It took weeks and months to get news from foreign countries. Only a few of the metropolitan papers had leased wire press services. It is possible today to gather news from all parts of the world within a few minutes, distribute it over the intricate network of news wires, and have it on the newsstands within the hour. Instead of editorial opinion being localized, it has a worldwide field. The local editorial expression is augmented by interpretation and opinion from columnists and special writers—services available only in comparatively recent years.

Fewer But Better Newspapers

We have fewer newspapers today than in the good old days. But they are better newspapers. Economics, not politics, has forced consolidations. Many newspapers have suspended publication because they could not meet present-day costs of operation. Costs of labor, materials and services have forced the industry into consolidations.

Yet the competitive situation has not been impaired as much as many people believe.

A few years ago we had limited transportation facilities. Papers were distributed over comparatively small areas. Newsgathering facilities were restricted. Consequently there was a place for one or even two papers in nearly every town of any substantial size.

But now newspapers are transported quickly by truck, train and airplane and are delivered over wide areas. The field for newsgathering has been expanded. Thus the picture has changed. One newspaper can more adequately serve its community than could two or three combined in the old days. More people are able to afford two or more newspapers or informative magazines. The average reader today has far more information—varied information—at his disposal than ever before.

In the old days a subscriber took the paper sponsored by his political party. He reveled in its virulent tirades against the opposition. He read only the side he wanted to read. His newspaper expressed his opinions exclusively.

Today's press, while it may or may not be sympathetic to the reader's political faith, nevertheless prints objectively in its news columns as much news and information about one party as the other, without regard to its editorial opinions.

If any reader believes with Mr. Ames that today's press is worse than that of former years, we suggest a trip to the nearest public library and a careful reading of some of the old files.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET

by Vidnett Martin - P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

"No work of art is more satisfying to the receptive eye than an open page of perfectly designed manuscript or printing. Nothing more clearly illustrates the truth that function, thoroughly fulfilled, produces beauty. . . Legibility — the essential function—comes from perfect design, and the beauty of the page from the discipline and high purpose of its scribe or printer." Quoted from the fascinating "Visitor's Guide" to the Huntington Gallery (San Marino, Calif.) Exhibitions: the pages where FINE BOOKS begins.

What a thrill it is to pause before the Gutenberg Bible and enjoy its beauty, and think about its history! One lovely page is reproduced in the Guide. (I assume the Guide is available by mail at a nominal price. I certainly treasure the one I have kept as a souvenir of the time spent there.) I enjoyed fine paintings, sculpture, the wonder collections of china and all the rest of the exhibits—but it was in the BOOKS that my heart thrills most. Books and globes and maps.

One can see Columbus' own handwriting in the manuscript "Book of Privileges" granted to Columbus in 1502 as a reward for his discovery of the New World. Written by his secretary but annotated by Columbus himself.

The original manuscript of Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography is to be seen, and the Guide tells the story of how the pages were written over a period of 20 years during which time America had become a nation in its own right, and Franklin one of the great personages of the world. Yet he kept his simplicity and wrote to "instruct youth."

The wonderful exhibit of books begins with clay tablets and progresses "as by stepping stones" through the centuries. There is a Latin Bible written by hand about 1077 A.D., on vellum. There is the "Ellesmere Chaucer" of which one page is reproduced—" one of the finest English manuscripts in existence."

When the entire Bible was first put into a small octavo volume, the vellum was so thin it was like India paper, and was obtained "from prenatal calves or from squirrels and rabbits" and the script was "squeezed laterally" until it was incredibly small!

We shall hear much about Bibles over the years right now with the "new Bible" just off the press. Have you seen it yet?

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON — Fair Deal, CIO and ADA yappers hardly have time to take a breath, it sometimes seem, between their screams of "slave labor" against the Taft-Hartley law.

They never, of course, have been able to even come close to proving their point, because it isn't so. Here, I want to tell a story and let you judge for yourselves if it doesn't look as if there were still a bit of slaver in Taft-Hartley, but slavery against employers rather than employes.

For some 50 years, the Mount Hope Finishing Company has operated a textile plant at North Dighton, Mass. Family-owned, it was relatively small but a highly respected plant, and up until a few years ago had brought reasonable profits to its owners.

Because of rising costs, bad times have fallen on the New England textile industry generally in recent years. Many firms have closed their New England plants and moved to other places where operating costs are lower.

In January, 1951, Robert Milliken who owned 25 per cent of the stock of the Mount Hope Company, began looking around the South for a possible site for a new plant where operations could be conducted more economically.

On July 27, 1951, the United Textile Workers of America (CIO), began a campaign to organize workers at the Mount Hope plant in North Dighton. The drive was not successful, and on August 13 the UTWA called a strike to give it momentum. Trouble ensued when the company kept the plant open on a limited operation basis. A Boston judge finally granted an injunction restraining the union from engaging in picket line violence. On Sept. 19, the company's board of directors voted to suspend operations a month hence. On October 5, the union called off the strike, and the company agreed that if it reopened the plant on a permanent basis it would bargain with the union over a contract. But on October 20, it closed the plant permanently; because of the strike too many customers had taken their business elsewhere to allow the firm to continue.

Meanwhile, Millikin had intensified his search for a southern site. Finally, in September, he found one at Buckner, N. C. Other stockholders still refused to move the North Dighton business, so Millikin set up a new corporation in North Carolina and himself took 100 per cent of its stock.

In Massachusetts, negotiations to keep the North Dighton plant open, or sell it to other interests, were fruitless. So in December Millikin bought the Mount Hope name, and operated under it when he opened the Buckner plant last January.

The union thereupon scented an opportunity and filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board, alleging that establishment of the new corporation was simply a dummy operation designed to prevent unionization of the firm's employees. It termed the Buckner setup a "runaway plant" — a means of running away from the union in Massachusetts.

Hearings were held in June. Last month the trial examiner submitted his report upholding the union's charges and finding that the move was purely a dummy operation intended to prevent the organization of the workers for collective bargaining purposes, in violation of the labor-management relations — or Taft-Hartley — law.

The examiner proposed that the North Carolina company be compelled to hire — rehire, he said — all the prsons employed at the North Dighton plant before the strike started. It also said the company should make up to them whatever wages they might have lost owing to their lack of employment with Mount Hope.

As an added fillip, the report also said that the job reinstatements should be offered at the Massachusetts plant, which has been closed since October; but that if the jobs are offered only at the Buckner plant, then the company also should pay moving costs for any of the workers who choose to take up the offer.

Neat, eh?

Millikin estimates that the board's order could cost as much as $2,000,000. His company is filing with the full NLRB an appeal from the examiner's report, as well as a motion for a further hearing to present additional evidence — which it was not allowed to present in the first hearing — on the question of identical ownership of the two companies. No action has yet been taken, but it's fair to say that the board usually upholds its trial examiners' reports.

"Slave labor," huh?

Hear Fulton Lewis Daily On KRNR, 9:15 P.M.

Reader Opinions

Thinks Press Dominated By One Political Party

ROSEBURG — (To The Editor)—In your address to the Rotary Club Thursday, you expressed alarm regarding freedom of the press.

It cannot be denied that the press of the United States is dominated and controlled by one political party — the Republican.

Formerly every town the size of Roseburg had two newspapers, Republican and Democrat, and their readers always enjoyed both sides of every controversial subject. Now all they see is what the Republicans publish. The Nixon episode is a recent example. All readers know about that case is what the Republican press said. They imply it simply was just a mistake.

Heretofore editors had to be careful of what they said editorially, else the opposing press would challenge them and force them to make retractions. Now the dominating press can call a Democrat a Red, a Socialist, or a fellow-traveler, if he does not see eye-to-eye with their views, and there is no opposing press to challenge that effrontry.

The daily press is full of the nauseating tirades of the highly-paid commentators. The readers see only one side of the topic at issue. They see only the story as the paper wishes it to be seen.

During the past 30 years, one by one of the outspoken liberal papers have folded up and full-fledged, straight - laced reactionaries emerged. One of the very last in Oregon was the Salem Press. For years the paper had been regarded as a disturbing factor and offensive to the private power interest. That was the last of the fearless, talkative, tell-it-all papers to fall into line.

In Roseburg there used to be two papers, the Plaindealer and the Review. In Eugene there were the Oregon State Journal, the Daily Guard, and The Register. There were the Oregon Journal and the Oregonian in Portland. The Journal at first was supposed to be Democratic, but now it is hard to tell what it is. It is one of the big fish in the reactionary tank. It was "root hog or die" with newspapers back when going was real tough.

Now every day columnists and editors fill the papers with subjects contrary to the reader's views. They may make false accusations and insinuations at will, which go unchallenged because there is no opposing press to refute the allegations. Many of those, readers who observe these impudent slaps in the daily press, which they consider offensive and unpalatable to their political appetites, are reading and subscribing to the paper only because of necessity, as there are no opposing papers in the field.

In your talk you mention freedoms that have been taken from us. It is a fact that the one-sided press enjoys a liberal bounty of freedom bestowed upon it, as it alone is the recipient of the lavish giving. Those who have no press representing their interests and political views do feel that freedoms are being partially bestowed. What this country needs is not nickel cigars but a mouthpiece for the other half.

Roseburg, Ore. B. AMES

Six Air Raid Sirens Ordered For Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — Six air raid sirens, said to be the loudest made, are on order for Portland and will be delivered in about 90 days. That was the word Wednesday from Jack Lowe, civil defense director.

The sirens will be mounted on 50-foot towers. They cost $5,700 each, delivered, and installation will add another $2,000 to each, Lowe said.

The city and the state each pay one-fourth of the cost and the federal government pays the rest.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

help the housewife wash the dishes"

Good work, Harry!

That's what I call good, clean campaign repartee—on a far, FAR higher plane than your nasty, sneering, distorted, untruthful charge yesterday that General Eisenhower "endangered America" back in 1945 by giving the impression that Russia was our trusted friend who could do no wrong.

No one knows better than you that until he was stopped by political orders from Washington General Eisenhower, as the commander of our military forces in Europe, was taking steps to put us in a military position where we could LEAD FROM STRENGTH in the difficult negotiations with Moscow which, he foresaw, would ensue in the post-war period. As a result of the secret agreement at Yalta, which gave the Russians the world with a fence around it, we were put in a position where we have had to lead ever since from WEAKNESS.

General Eisenhower had NOTHING to do with the Yalta surrender.

I concede your point, sir, on the government dams and the more abundant electricity that has resulted from them. We needed it, and they have provided it.

But BIG GOVERNMENT in Washington didn't stop with providing the electric current with which to power the housewife's new dishwasher. It is now beginning to come into the kitchen and blow down her neck while she uses it, telling her which knob she must turn and which button she must push and winding up by telling her she never had it so good and if she wants to keep it good she's gotta vote to keep us Democrats in our jobs.

I do some dishwashing myself, and I don't like the idea of a kibitzer in the kitchen when I'm doing my chores. I don't know about the housewife. Maybe she's different. But I doubt seriously if any housewife likes to have her mother-in-law looking over her shoulder all the time and telling her to do this and don't do that.

The trouble with big government is that it's getting to be everybody's mother-in-law.

Incidentally, all these arguments that are being batted back and forth and the dirty cracks that are being made and the absurd demands that are arising that before any man can aspire to any high office he must hire a certified public accountant to audit his books ever since the day he climbed out of his cradle in order to show that he never held a nickel out of the collection box at the church and went out and spent it for an all-day sucker leave me quite cold.

I put it to myself like this:

Too much power held in too few hands too long is dangerous. The Democrats have been in power TOO LONG.

I want a change.

Program Deals With Revised Bible Version

"Adventure in Our Town," slide illustrated story of the revised Standard Version of the Bible, was the program for the Roseburg Kiwanis Club Tuesday noon.

Five Roseburg ministers were present to put on the program, which tied in with the club's support of the churches effort.

Father Alfred Tyson was in charge and presented the films, and the Rev. Rae Kleinfeldt read the story of the new Bible. Rev. Meredith Groves, Dr. Morris Roach, and Rev. Raymond Schaefer were also present. Rev. Willis Erickson, pastor of the other cooperating church in the local observance of the new Bible this week, was unable to attend as he is preparing to leave the city.

The story was related that the new version does not alter the intended meanings of the Bible but presents it in modern day language, more understandable to the readers. It was pointed out that many expressions common to the day of earlier translations have little meaning today. The meaning of words also change. Incorporation of archaeological discoveries of biblical manuscripts have also been incorporated.

Eugene Springer was presented a copy of the new Bible as a special award during the meeting.

SUIT TRANSFERRED

A Multnomah County Circuit Court suit against the State Industrial Accident Commission has been transferred to the Douglas County Circuit Court.

In the suit, Ralph E. Heckman asks compensation for 100 per cent loss of use of an arm injured in a mill accident at Gardiner in 1950.

ACTRESS ASKS DIVORCE

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Actress Joan Blair has sued her financier husband, David A. Coplin, for divorce, alleging extreme cruelty.

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